

CTSO State Officers Provided Leadership Development Training Opportunity Presented by Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education

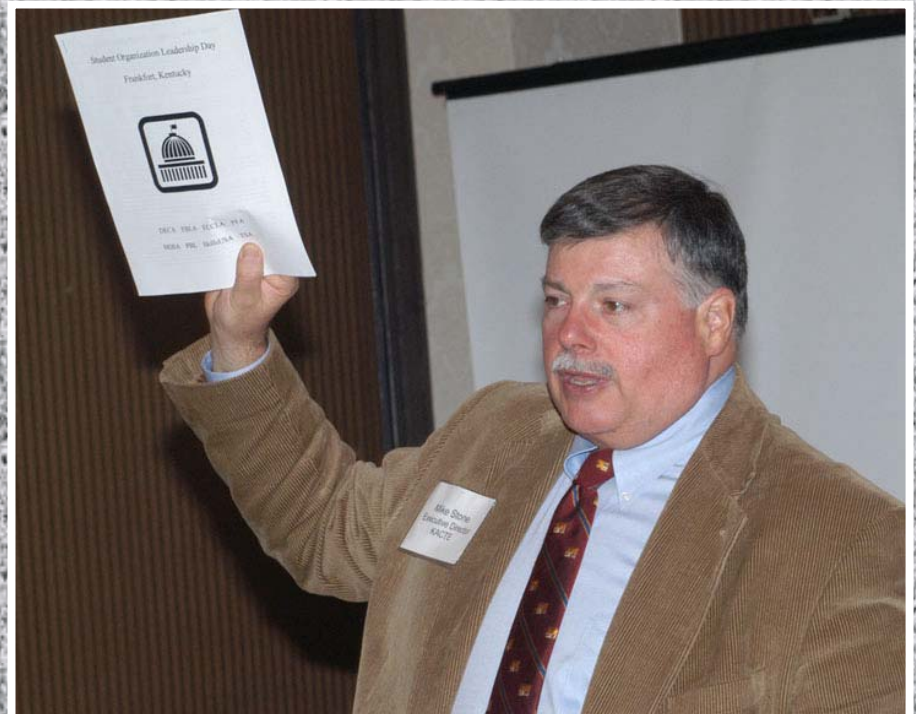
“Education and knowledge are yours to use. Both, in my opinion, are the most valuable elements to your life. Through education and leadership, you will not only survive, but prosper. Study hard. Education and leadership will be the keys that unlock opportunity for you.”

**-Virginia G. Fox
Secretary
Education Cabinet**



The fourth annual Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) State Officers Legislative Leadership Training was held at the Holiday Inn-Capitol Plaza Hotel on February 14 in Frankfort. The training, presented by the Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE), was a special event to provide student leaders with an array of professional development activities and exercises. “*Career Tech: Training Tomorrow’s Workforce*” is the official theme for the 2005 Career and Technical Education Week (CTEW) - February 13-19.

“With approximately 40,000 students across Kentucky participating in CTSOs, it is important that the state leaders of the various organizations understand how to best represent their diverse membership,” says Mike Stone, KACTE executive director. “KACTE takes the opportunity during Career and Technical Education Week to organize a leadership training program that hopes to impart advocacy skills so these leaders are effective in explaining to the public, legislators and other officials the value of their organizations and the critical relationship career and technical education programs have to the Kentucky economy.”



At right: Mike Stone, KACTE executive director, discusses a Student Organization Leadership Day handout.



An exceptional part of the training session included a special appearance by Education Cabinet Secretary Virginia G. Fox. Secretary Fox energized the students by praising their accomplishments and leadership endeavors. However, they were most interested in listening to her talk with them about leadership and education.

“I want to talk about leadership, about the qualities of a leader, because after all this is a Leadership Conference,” said Fox. “Point #1 is ‘YOU.’”

She opened her arms to all the students and asked them collectively, “Can you think of something that’s yours and can never, ever be taken away from you?”

Looking around the room and smiling she relayed, “It’s knowledge. It’s wisdom. It’s

the ability in your head to be able to reason, learn, think and adapt to situations. Your education is yours alone. It’s one of the very few things in your life that no one can take away from you, and its value is simply priceless.”

As heads were nodding in agreement all around the room, the secretary further relayed, “Point #2 is Leadership. Leaders never accept defeat. Leaders keep trying. Leaders set common goals. Leaders enlist the support of others - for the common good.”

“Education and knowledge are yours to use. Both, in my opinion, are the most valuable elements to your life,” said Fox. “Through education and leadership, you will not only survive, but prosper. Study hard. Education and leadership will be the keys that unlock opportunity for you.”

KY SkillsUSA Leadership Group poses with Secretary Fox.



Says KY SkillsUSA State Director Steve Phillippi (third from left), “Leadership Day continues to be the capstone event for CTSOs. The event encourages and motivates our officers and members to be aware of the legislative process, the impact of the individual as a leader and the impact of the individual as a citizen.”



Above: Secretary Fox poses with Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA). State HOSA Advisor, Mayfield/Graves Co. ATC Health Sciences Instructor Sheryle Guess (far left) says, “This leadership day is a valuable experience because the students are exposed to the processes by which policies and laws that effect them are implemented. Additionally, lawmakers and policy makers can see the positive influence the CTSO has on a student’s professional development.”

CTSOs have a proven track record in helping students to obtain leadership skills and gain valuable experiences that will help them pursue academic and technical careers, college and lifelong learning. Each year during CTEW, many statewide events are sponsored at area technology centers and local school districts across the Commonwealth.



Student organizations invited to attend the leadership training included DECA (An Association of Marketing Students), FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America), FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America), FFA (an organization of agricultural education), HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America), PBL (Phi Beta Lambda), SkillsUSA (Vocational Industrial Clubs of America), and TSA (Technology Student Association).

Photo at left: Secretary Fox greets Technology Student Association State Sergeant-at-Arms Samuel Wheeling (Lafayette Sr. High School).



Top left photo: DECA (An Association of Marketing Students) State President Ashley Malone, Logan Co. High School, (third from left) and her advisors pose with Secretary Fox.

Bottom left photo: Family, Community and Career Leaders of America (FCCLA) State Officers enjoy a moment with Secretary Fox

Bottom right photo: Secretary Fox meets FFA (an organization of agricultural education) State Officers.





Far left: KY State SkillsUSA Director Steve Phillippi believes *Leadership Day* encourages “Team Work” among the numerous students organizations.

2nd from left: Office of Career and Technical Education Executive Director Emil Jezik was in attendance during Leadership Day activities. Says Jezik, “Students are our future leaders. This type of program provides them with an opportunity to understand and participate in the legislative process as well as network with legislators and students from across the Commonwealth.”



Photo at left: State HOSA Student Advisor Sheryl Guess discusses a student project with Office of Career and Technical Education Division Director John Marks (left) and Deputy Executive Director Lewis Carter (right).